

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Robert Holthus on 5/23/2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 17, line 1, replace "claim 16" with --claim 14--.

In claim 26, line 1, after "at least two" insert --separate--. In line 3, after "wherein one" insert --separate--. In line 10, after "and one other" insert --separate--.

Cancel claims 27 and 28.

Statement of Reasons for Allowance

The present claims are allowable over the closest prior art, Pinnavaia (US 5,760,106) and Zilg (US 6,197,849) for the following reasons:

The present claims are drawn to a composition comprising two separate reactive components, each separate reactive component comprising a nanoscale platelet filler and aluminum trihydrate that interacts with the nanoscale platelet filler. The claims are clearly drawn to a composition which is composed of two separate reactive components which are not yet combined or reacted.

Pinnavaia discloses epoxy resin-clay composites comprising epoxy resin and organoclay like claimed, however, it fails to disclose or suggest that the separate reactive components of the epoxy resin each contains nanoscale platelet filler. Pinnavaia also fails to disclose the addition of an aluminum trihydrate filler that interacts with the nanoscale platelet filler.

Zilg discloses organophilic phyllosilicates comprising epoxy resin, however, it fails to disclose or suggest that the separate reactive components of the epoxy resin each contains nanoscale platelet filler. Zilg also fails to disclose the addition of an aluminum trihydrate filler that interacts with the nanoscale platelet filler.

Thus, it is clear that the references, taken individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the claimed invention.

In light of the above, it is clear that rejections of record are untenable and thus the present claims are passed to issue.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vickey Nerangis whose telephone number is (571) 272-2701. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wu can be reached on (571) 272-1114. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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/Vickey Nerangis/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1762